

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-10 /088 W

-----054101 230845Z /12

R 221551Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4116

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ABIDJAN 6290

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IV , CG

SUBJECT: MOBUTU VISIT TO IVORY COAST

REF: ABIDJAN 5718

1. ZAIRE PRESIDENT MOBUTU VISITED IVORY COAST JUNE 18-20 ON WAY HOME FROM EUROPE VIA RABAT AND DAKAR. MOBUTU SAID ON ARRIVAL THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP WAS TO THANK PERSONALLY THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAD PROVIDED MATERIAL, MORAL OR DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT TO ZAIRE IN REPELLING THE RECENT AGGRESSION IN SHABA. FOR HIS PART, PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY TOOK THE OCCASION TO SALUTE MOBUTU'S "BRILLIANT VICTORY OVER THE FORCES OF EVIL" IN SHABA.

2. IN ADDITION TO PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH HOUPHOUET AND AN OFFICIAL DINNER IN MOBUTU'S HONOR, THE PROGRAM INCLUDED

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A FILM SHOWING ON SUNDAY EVENING (TO WHICH THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM WERE CONVOKED) ON THE SHABA INVASION BUT MOSTLY DEPICITING FOOTAGE OF MOBUTU REVIEWING TROOPS OR EATING C-RATIONS WITH HIS SOLDIERS.

3. BEFORE DEPARTING FOR LOME, MOBUTU TOLD THE PRESS HE AND HOUPHOUET HAD ALSO DISCUSSED VARIOUS TROUBLE SPOTS IN AFRICA

AND THE POSITION OF OF MODERATE STATES ON THE EVEN OF THE LIBRE-VILLE SUMMIT.

4. COMMENT: IVORY COAST SUPPORT OF MOBUTU OVER SHABA COMBINED PRIVATE DIPLOMACY WITH PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS. THE GOIC SENT AT LEAST ONE PLANELOAD OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES TO ZAIRE, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NEVER PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED. THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS THAT HOUPHOUET QUIETLY INTERCEDED WITH THE FRENCH ON BEHALF OF MOBUTU. PUBLICLY HOUPHOUET DESCRIBED THE SHABA INCURSION AS THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF SOVIET-/CUBAN EFFORTS TO EXTEND THEIR INFLUENCE IN AFRICA.

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-10 /088 W

-----054158 230845Z /12

R 221551Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4117

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSYDAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

RUEH R/AMEMBASSY LOME 3179

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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5. PRIVATELY, THE IVORIANS WERE CONSIDERABLY LESS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE MOBUTU VISIT, WHICH CLEARLY TOOK PLACE AT THE ZAIRIAN LEADER'S INITIATIVE. HOUPHOUET HAD FIRST SUGGESTED THAT MOBUTU MEET HIM IN YAMOUSSOUKRO, HOUPHOUET'S BIRTHPLACE, SOME TWO HOURS FROM THE CAPITAL. THIS SCHEDULE WOULD HAVE BYPASSED ABIDJAN ALTOGETHER SINCE YAMOUSSOUKRO HAS ITS OWN AIRPORT. MOBUTU, HOWEVER, INSISTED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF A PUBLIC RECEPTION AT ABIDJAN, ARGUING, ACCORDING TO ONE OF HOUPHOUET'S CLOSE ADVISERS, THAT A HIGH PROFILE VISIT WOULD DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY OF THE AFRICAN "MODERATES." IVORIANS WERE ALSO SOMEWHAT DISCOURAGED BY THE SIZE OF MOBUTU'S ENTOURAGE--

OVER 80 PEOPLE--AND BY ZAIRIAN PRESSURES TO EXTEND THE DURATION OF THE VISIT BEYOND THE ORIGINALLY PLANNED TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

6. THE RESULT OF ALL THIS WAS A SERIES OF LAVISH BUT HASTILY PLANNED FORMAL FUNCTIONS AND A GREAT DEAL OF SOTTO VOCE COMPLAINING BY THE IVORIANS. INVITATIONS TO THE OFFICIAL DINNER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR MOBUTU WERE DELIVERED THE NIGHT BEFORE AND FOR THE SUNDAY FILM SHOWING AT NOON THE SAME DAY. THE FILM ITSELF WAS AN AGONIZING EXPERIENCE. IT LAST FOR TWO HOURS, SHOWED LITTLE OR NOTHING OF THE WAR, BUT A GREAT DEAL OF MOBUTU GETTING IN AND OUT OF HELICOPTERS AND GREETING VISITING DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING ADMIN DADA OF UGANDA. (THE ONLY FOREIGN ASSISTANCE SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE FILM WAS THAT OF THE MOROCCANS AND UGANDANS.) MOBUTU WAS DESCRIBED AS THE FIELD COMMANDER AND ARCHITECT OF VICTORY. SEVERAL REFERENCES WERE MADE IN COMMENTARY TO SOVIET/CUBAN SUPPORT FOR THE INVADERS. STEARNS

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## Message Attributes

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